

Remarks

Claims 1-5, 7-21 and 24-31 are pending in the application. Claims 6, 22 and 23 have been canceled hereinabove without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claim 31 is newly added.

Claims 12-16 and 18-29 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Kopser et al. (US 6,629,250) (hereafter, "Kopser"). Of these claims, claims 12-16, 18-21 and 24-29 remain pending. The Applicant respectfully traverses the asserted rejection. The asserted rejection cannot be sustained for at least the reason that Kopser does not disclose "programming a delay element to offset switching of signals output by said first interface with respect to each other and to delay said signals output by said first interface for propagation to said second interface by a delay corresponding to respective lengths of traces propagating said output signals" as recited in independent claim 12. Independent claims 18, 20 and 26 recite features along substantially the same lines, in that claims 18, 20 and 26 require both offset outputs and a delay corresponding to a length of a trace. Thus, embodiments of the present invention address the dual problems, outlined in the background discussion of the present specification, of simultaneously switched outputs and misaligned signal flight times. Kopser only relates to a delay circuit at a receiving circuit, and consequently is completely silent as to offsetting output signals.

Moreover, Kopser further cannot meet the recitations of independent claim 24, including "said delay element being programmable to delay sampling of received signals of said receiver interface by a delay corresponding to a length of a trace traveled by a received signal." Independent claim 24 relates to embodiments of the present invention as represented by FIG. 6 of the present application, wherein sampling times for received signals at a receiver interface are controlled by a programmable delay. While Kopser relates to a delay circuit at a receiving end of two coupled circuits, the delay circuit outputs a delayed signal; it does not delay sampling of a received signal as recited in independent claim 24.

In view of the foregoing, independent claims 12, 18, 20, 24 and 26 are allowable over Kopser. Moreover, the claims that depend on the latter independent claims are likewise allowable over Kopser for at least the reasons discussed in connection with the

independent claims. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12-16, 18-21 and 24-29 as anticipated by Kopser is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11, 17 and 30 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kopser and further in view of Schoenfeld et al. (U.S. app. pub. no. 2002/0091958) (hereafter, "Schoenfeld").

The Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references cannot support the asserted rejection, for at least the reason that even in combination the references do not suggest "a programmable delay element coupled to said driver interface, said delay element being programmed to offset switching of said output buffers with respect to each other and to delay switching of said output buffers by a delay corresponding to a length of a trace coupled to a respective buffer" as recited in independent claim 1, nor the substantially parallel recitations in independent claims 9, 12 or 26. As discussed above, Kopser is completely silent as to offsetting outputs, and only discloses a delay circuit associated with a receiving circuit. Schoenfeld is similarly silent concerning offsetting outputs. Consequently, independent claims 1, 9, 12 and 26 are allowable over Kopser and Schoenfeld. Claims 2-8 depend on claim 1, claims 10 and 11 depend on claim 9, claim 17 depends on claim 12, and claim 30 depends on claim 29. Therefore, claims 2-11, 17 and 30 are allowable over Kopser and Schoenfeld for at least the reasons discussed in connection with the independent claims. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-11, 17 and 30 as unpatentable over Kopser and Schoenfeld is therefore respectfully requested.

In light of the above discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

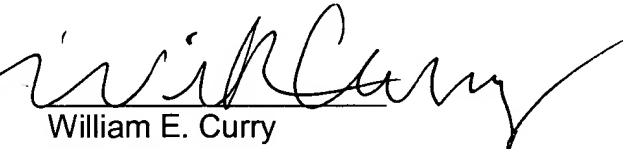
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

DEC. 8, 2004

By:


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